WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Functioning of Category-Ill equipments at airports

1 SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the Category-III equipments installed at Delhi and other airports to cope with foggy weather this year;

(b) if so, with what results;

(c) whether it is a fact that Category-Ill equipments were not of much use and passengers had to face flight cancellation and hardships of cold weather; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to address the situation to avoid inconvenience to the passengers in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Instrument Landing System (ILS) facility CAT IIIA at IGI Airport, Delhi has been upgraded to CAT IIIB w.e.f. 24.12.2005.

(c) and (d) Situation has considerably improved after upgradation of ILS facility to CAT IIIB. The airlines have been directed/encouraged to undertake operations with complaint aircraft and trained pilots so as to reduce delays.

Action plan to control air accidents 2. SHRI B.J.

PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to work out an action plan to control air accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether majority of the air accidents are due to pilot error and non-compliance with the procedures;

(d) if so, the action plan of Government to address this issue; and

(e) the action plan of Government to control accidents on the runways by fast-moving vehicular traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To avoid air accidents various accident prevention programmes have been initiated by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Safety audits, surveillance inspections etc. are carried out to find out the hazards in the operations/ engineering departments of the operator/airlines. Corrective action is taken to eliminate/ reduce the hazards. Safety management system is being introduced with all service providers/ operators.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) All accidents/incidents occurring in the India Air Space to civil aircraft are investigated under the relevant provisions of the Aircraft Rules. The investigation reports bring out the cause of the accidents and make certain recommendations. Safety Recommendations emanating from investigation of accidents/incidents are followed up by Directorate General

of Civil Aviation for implementation by the concerned agencies/units to prevent recurrence of similar incidents/accidents.

(e) DGCA has issued instructions to all airport managements for preventing ground incidents by controlling entry permits at airports, installing speed governors in vehicles plying in apron areas, carrying out regular surveillance and recommending/taking punitive action for violations.

Delays in flights of Air India and Indian Airlines

3. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry took a strong view of the unprecedented delays of both Air lndia and Indian Airlines during November-December, 2007 also due to fog-birds-hits and technical snags, shortages of pilots and ground staff;

(b) if so, whether he had promised strong corrective action against those who were responsible for delays in the last year and had promised to remove these hurdles in the current year; and

(c) if so, what corrective measures and steps are being considered, so that such situation does not arise in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In order to ensure that such situation does not arise in future the airline has rationalised flights and crew allocation and is closely monitoring and taking corrective on a daily basis. A Punctuality Coordination Cell has been functioning round the clock at Mumbai airport and a Corporate Level Control Room has also been set up at Delhi, Mumbai which will be integrated with the Hub Control set up so as to coordinate with various flight handling departments with a view to ensuring punctuality of flights.

Airhostess training for tribal girls

4. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is proposing to launch a scheme on the lines similar to that of the State Government of Maharashtra to train tribal girls in the country to become airhostesses;

(b) if so, whether the selected girls would be imparted training in the Public Sector Airlines;

(c) if so, how many tribal girls would complete their training by the end of 2008 and 2009. State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not launching such scheme for the welfare of tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE-MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.